

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is provided below:

Claims 1-51: (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) ~~An anti-tumor~~ A composition comprising:
an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide that consists of 20 to 100 nucleotides or base pairs comprising a nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9), wherein said oligonucleotide is present in an amount sufficient to exert an anti-tumor activity.

53. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 52, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is single-stranded ~~or double-stranded~~.

54. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 52, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is stabilized.

55. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 54, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is stabilized by a modified backbone selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, a phosphorodithioate, a phosphodiester-phosphorothioate mixture, a methylphosphonate, and a stabilization at a 3' or 5' end.

56. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 52, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is combined with an encapsulating agent, colloidal dispersion system, or a polymer.

57. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 52, wherein at least one cytosine of the nonmethylated octameric CG motif(s) of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9) is replaced with 5-bromocytosine.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) A method of treating cancer, comprising administering an effective amount of the composition of Claim 52 to a human.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the cancer is a cancer of the nervous system.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the cancer is astrocytoma, glioblastoma, medulloblastoma, neuroblastoma, melanoma or carcinoma.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the human has a tumor.

63. (Currently Amended) An oligonucleotide consisting of 20 to 100 nucleotides or base pairs comprising which contains a nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9).

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) The oligonucleotide of Claim ~~[[64]]~~ 63, which is selected from the group consisting of the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 9, 10, 16, 21, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 37.

66. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of Claim 63, which is stabilized by a modified backbone selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, a phosphorodithioate, a phosphodiester-phosphorothioate mixture, a methylphosphonate, and a stabilization at a 3' or 5' end.

67. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is double-stranded.

68. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 63, which is stabilized.

69. (New) A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of an oligonucleotide consisting of 20 to 100 nucleotides or base pairs which contains a nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9), wherein said oligonucleotide may be stabilized or unstabilized.